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# Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019*

## Part V
## Regional cooperation for development

## Section 22
## Economic and social development in Western Asia

**(Programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019)****

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## Overview

Table 22.1 **Financial resources**

(United States dollars)

| | |
|---|---|
| Appropriation for 2016-2017 | 70 088 300 |
| Technical adjustments (removal of non-recurrent requirements and biennial provision of posts) | 1 019 200 |
| New and expanded mandates | 385 500 |
| Other changes | (969 300) |
| Total changes | 435 400 |
| Proposal of the Secretary-General for 2018-2019[a] | 70 523 700 |

[a] At 2016-2017 revised rates.

Table 22.2 **Post resources**

| | *Number* | *Level* |
|---|---|---|
| *Regular budget* | | |
| Approved posts for the biennium 2016-2017 | 258 | 1 USG, 2 D-2, 8 D-1, 25 P-5, 37 P-4, 33 P-3, 17 P-2/1, 131 LL, 1 FS, 3 NPO |
| Redeployment | – | 1 P-4 and 2 LL from programme support to executive direction and management;<br>1 P-5 and 1 NPO from subprogramme 4 to subprogramme 1;<br>1 LL from subprogramme 4 to subprogramme 2;<br>1 P-4 and 1 LL from subprogramme 3 to subprogramme 7 |
| Reclassification | – | 1 P-3 to NPO under programme support;<br>1 P-4 to P-2 under programme support |
| Abolishment | (3) | 1 P-4 under subprogramme 4;<br>1 LL under subprogramme 3;<br>1 LL under programme support |
| Proposed for the biennium 2018-2019 | 255 | 1 USG, 2 D-2, 8 D-1, 25 P-5, 35 P-4, 32 P-3, 18 P-2/1, 1 FS, 129 LL, 4 NPO |

## Overall orientation

22.1 The overall orientation of the programme for the period 2018-2019 is to foster sustainable development, social justice and regional integration among the member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in particular for the least developed and conflict-affected countries. ESCWA, through its seven interdependent subprogrammes, is responsible for the implementation of this programme.

22.2 The mandate for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV), establishing ESCWA, and 1985/69, amending its terms of reference to underscore the social functions of the Commission. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the United Nations system, requested regional commissions to further develop their analytical capacities to support country-level development initiatives and urged them to prioritize sustainable development initiatives at the country level.

*Note*: The following abbreviations are used in tables and charts: FS, Field Service; LL, Local level; NPO, National Professional Officer; RB, regular budget; USG, Under-Secretary-General; XB, extrabudgetary.

22.3 ESCWA member States shape and define the Commission's priorities and approaches. At the twenty-eighth session of ESCWA, member States adopted the Tunis Declaration on Social Justice in the Arab Region, in which social justice was reaffirmed as a core value of the Arab and Islamic culture and a foundation for secure, cohesive and prosperous societies. In the Declaration, the secretariat of the Commission was requested to embed social justice in its work, and in particular in its efforts to support the preparation, monitoring and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The secretariat was further called upon to bolster its research and advisory efforts in the areas of justice, poverty, inequality, social protection, social inclusion, women's empowerment, natural resources management, access to technology and good governance, as well as trade policies and their role in achieving development. The Declaration also reinforced the mandate of the Commission to monitor the effects of the occupation of Palestine.

22.4 In the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (General Assembly resolution 70/1), Member States pledged that no one would be left behind. In the 2030 Agenda, transformative action was called for to eliminate poverty and globally embark upon a sustainable and resilient path for development and growth through the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their means of implementation. Member States recognized the importance of the regional and subregional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in promoting sustainable development. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States also emphasized the role of the regional commissions in integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, and agreed that regional and subregional frameworks could facilitate the effective translation of policies into concrete action at the national level.

22.5 In the 2030 Agenda, Member States recognized that sustainable development could not be realized without peace and security and, conversely, that peace and security would be at risk without sustainable development. They also recognized the need to build peaceful and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, including the right to development, on effective rule of law, on good governance at all levels and on transparent and accountable institutions. In the 2030 Agenda, Member States also called for measures and actions to be taken to remove all obstacles to the full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

22.6 In the Arab region, widespread conflict is the dominant challenge to the developmental landscape. In addition to causing loss of life, conflict and occupation hinder sustainable development and lead to economic disintegration, damage to infrastructure, loss of social cohesion, diminished access to social services and violations of basic human rights. The region has the world's largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons, which has further exacerbated the hardships of those who are already vulnerable, with particularly adverse effects on women and children. While not all the countries in the Arab region are directly experiencing violent conflict, development in the region as a whole has been negatively affected by increasing insecurity. Countries in conflict have witnessed severe reversals in development gains and the spillover effects have adversely impacted neighbouring countries.

22.7 Achieving sustainable growth is another key challenge facing the Arab region. Low productivity, lack of economic diversification and technological innovation, a large informal labour market and the absence of adequate social protection schemes have resulted in increasing and widespread poverty, inequality and the world's highest youth unemployment rates. Ineffective trade and fiscal policies exacerbate the region's low rates of intraregional trade and interrupt value chains. In addition to economic inequalities, the region suffers from other forms of inequality, most notably gender inequality, unequal access to information and services, and inadequate attention to the needs of vulnerable population groups, such as youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, informal workers and migrants.

22.8 Moreover, unsustainable patterns of production and consumption across the region place a growing burden on scarce natural resources such as water, energy and arable land and pose serious

challenges to food security. Climate change further exacerbates the region's desertification and leads to more frequent occurrences of natural disasters.

22.9 Institutional weakness is an overarching challenge that continues to face the Arab region in the implementation of a sustainable development agenda. Institutions suffer from political, financial, capacity and technical limitations, which hinder their effectiveness. This institutional weakness impedes Arab countries from fostering inclusive policymaking processes, limits their capacity to produce the high-quality data required for evidence-based policymaking and slows the mobilization of the necessary means of implementation, such as financing, technology and international or regional cooperation.

22.10 The ESCWA strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 envisages an integrated response to these significant obstacles to sustainable development. The Commission's response to these challenges also takes into consideration the collective approach designed by the regional commissions for achieving the 2030 Agenda, which includes integrating Sustainable Development Goals into national development planning and fiscal frameworks; promoting policy coherence, consistency and coordination across sectors and levels of intervention; enhancing data and statistical capacities of member States; and leveraging appropriate means of implementation, including financing for development, science, technology and innovation, and global and regional partnerships.

22.11 First and foremost, ESCWA will work on the promotion of sustainable development, regionally, subregionally and nationally. ESCWA will help member States design Arab strategies for the integrated management of natural resources, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. It will support member States in their efforts to improve the efficient use of natural resources, promote the application of appropriate green technologies and facilitate regional cooperation and coordination to enhance food, water and energy security and the alleviation of rural poverty. ESCWA will also promote the design of inclusive economic policies employing multidimensional poverty approaches by facilitating constructive dialogue on government budgets and fiscal policy and building the capacities of Member States to conduct evidence-based policy forecasts and assessments. Member States will be supported in mobilizing financial resources for development and in designing appropriate financing policies to address socioeconomic development gaps. In cooperation with regional and international partners, ESCWA will offer a comprehensive institutional framework to steer the regional statistical development agenda. It will support Member States in collecting, analysing, harmonizing and disseminating statistical data for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and building the capacity of national statistical systems to ensure the production of high-quality data.

22.12 During 2018-2019, ESCWA will seek to place social justice at the heart of development in the Arab region. ESCWA will promote a rights-based approach to inclusive social and economic policymaking, helping member States mainstream key population and human development issues into national strategies and plans, with a focus on youth development, international migration and social protection. ESCWA will make use of its multidisciplinary structure to support member States in strengthening policy integration, including in the area of economic and social inclusion of vulnerable groups, through broad-based civic participation. It will also continue its support to member States in eliminating gender inequality in policies, strategies, legislation and programmes. ESCWA will intensify its support to national and regional efforts to overcome all forms of discrimination against women and to secure their equal access to resources and participation in decision-making. Furthermore, ESCWA will help member States to develop narratives that foster belonging, regional engagement and reconciliation in order to forge common understandings of development priorities and shared destinies. ESCWA will address the external pressures and spillover effects of conflict, by working with member States to establish regional frameworks designed to actively support efforts at building social cohesion and resilience. ESCWA will also continue to monitor the effects of conflict and occupation and their detrimental impact on the attainment of justice in its multiple dimensions.

22.13 ESCWA recognizes the potential of greater regional integration to address the region's key challenges most effectively. National resilience with respect to economic, social and political shocks is only possible within a regional framework that facilitates both integration in equitable global markets and the development of progressive political structures. ESCWA will undertake rigorous quantitative analyses of the legal and institutional arrangements to assist member States in formulating regional economic integration policies and the achievement of regional developmental objectives. It will also promote improved regional coordination among member States with respect to cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation. ESCWA will help advance regional approaches for climate change adaptation and mitigation by supporting the development of mechanisms to address climate change, including its impact on water resources and the resultant consequences for the poor. ESCWA will also serve as a forum for multisectoral policy dialogue on sustainable development issues to forge regional positions based on an enhanced science-policy interface, coherence across different sectors and institution-building. During the period 2018-2019, ESCWA will use its convening power to gather member States to discuss and share views on common and coordinated solutions to address the root causes of instability and the effects of this instability on people and their environment.

22.14 In its programming, ESCWA has considered how consecutive strategic frameworks can build upon each other towards achieving long-term goals in line with the 2030 Agenda, and has set intermediate goals for 2023. ESCWA has also adopted a conceptual framework that is grounded in supporting Arab States and people to obtain and articulate a shared vision of the future they want in the era of the 2030 Agenda. ESCWA is committed to mainstreaming a gender perspective in its entire programme of work and its non-programmed activities. It will continue to lead the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

22.15 ESCWA will continue to expand its network of national, regional and international partners and will collaborate with intergovernmental bodies, United Nations organizations, donors, research institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to respond to the pressing needs and policy challenges of member States. Building on its special relationship with the League of Arab States, ESCWA will support the articulation of regional positions. It will also support the implementation of resolutions of high-level regional forums, mainly the Arab Economic and Social Development Summits.

22.16 ESCWA will continue to convene the Regional Coordination Mechanism as a platform for United Nations entities and regional organizations to discuss regional policy priorities and coordinate support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In order to ensure it can disseminate and operationalize the findings and recommendations of its normative work and respond effectively to the requests of its member States, ESCWA will mobilize additional financial and in-kind contributions. For this purpose, ESCWA will leverage the results and outputs of its regular programme of work and the strategic partnerships it builds across the region.

## Overview of resources

22.17 The overall resources proposed for the biennium 2018-2019 for this section amount to $70,523,700 before recosting, reflecting a net increase of $435,400 (or 0.6 per cent) compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017. Resource changes result from three factors, namely: (a) technical adjustments relating to the removal of non-recurrent requirements and the biennial provision of new posts established in 2016-2017, and reductions relating to the phased abolishment of posts; (b) new and expanded mandates; and (c) other resource changes. The proposed resource level provides for the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandates.

22.18 The distribution of resources is reflected in tables 22.3 to 22.5.

Table 22.3 **Financial resources by component**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

| | 2014-2015 expenditure | 2016-2017 appropriation | Resource changes: Technical adjustment (non-recurrent biennial provision of posts) | Resource changes: New and expanded mandates | Resource changes: Within and or across section(s) | Resource changes: Other | Resource changes: Total | Resource changes: Percentage | Total before recosting | Recosting | 2018-2019 estimate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Policymaking organs | 87.6 | 183.7 | – | – | (2.5) | – | (2.5) | (1.4) | 181.2 | 10.5 | 191.7 |
| B. Executive direction and management | 4 176.3 | 4 549.0 | – | – | 624.8 | – | 624.8 | 13.7 | 5 173.8 | 111.8 | 5 285.6 |
| C. Programme of work | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development | 6 895.9 | 6 454.4 | – | – | 589.8 | (13.2) | 576.6 | 8.9 | 7 031.0 | 118.8 | 7 149.8 |
| 2. Social development | 5 782.4 | 6 027.0 | 664.4 | 115.1 | 147.9 | (5.8) | 921.6 | 15.3 | 6 948.6 | 114.5 | 7 063.1 |
| 3. Economic development and integration | 8 969.1 | 8 706.7 | 122.8 | 161.3 | (472.9) | (164.3) | (353.1) | (4.1) | 8 353.6 | 105.9 | 8 459.5 |
| 4. Technology for development and regional integration | 4 565.7 | 3 950.8 | – | 109.1 | (735.2) | (332.5) | (958.6) | (24.3) | 2 992.2 | 58.9 | 3 051.1 |
| 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking | 4 619.4 | 4 801.8 | – | – | – | (9.3) | (9.3) | (0.2) | 4 792.5 | 56.8 | 4 849.3 |
| 6. Advancement of women | 3 146.1 | 3 130.5 | – | – | – | (10.0) | (10.0) | (0.3) | 3 120.5 | 40.9 | 3 161.4 |
| 7. Conflict mitigation and development | 3 234.0 | 3 683.5 | – | – | 472.9 | (9.8) | 463.1 | 12.6 | 4 146.6 | 59.8 | 4 206.4 |
| **Subtotal, programme of work** | **37 212.5** | **36 754.7** | **787.2** | **385.5** | **2.5** | **(544.9)** | **630.3** | **1.7** | **37 385.0** | **555.6** | **37 940.6** |
| D. Programme support | 31 296.7 | 28 600.9 | 232.0 | – | (624.8) | (424.4) | (817.2) | (2.9) | 27 783.7 | 1 019.6 | 28 803.3 |
| **Subtotal** | **72 773.2** | **70 088.3** | **1 019.2** | **385.5** | **–** | **(969.3)** | **435.4** | **0.6** | **70 523.7** | **1 697.5** | **72 221.2** |

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

| | 2014-2015 expenditure | 2016-2017 estimate | 2018-2019 estimate |
|---|---|---|---|
| A. Policymaking organs | – | 169.4 | – |
| B. Executive direction and management | 23.8 | 257.4 | – |
| C. Programme of work | 8 037.7 | 11 820.6 | 12 674.9 |
| D. Programme support | – | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **8 061.5** | **12 247.4** | **12 674.9** |
| **Total** | **80 834.7** | **82 335.7** | **84 896.1** |

Table 22.4 **Post resources**

| Category | Established regular budget | | Temporary: Regular budget | | Temporary: Other assessed | | Temporary: Extrabudgetary | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 |
| **Professional and higher** | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| D-2 | 2 | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | 2 |
| D-1 | 8 | 8 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 8 | 8 |
| P-5 | 25 | 25 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 25 | 25 |
| P-4/3 | 67 | 64 | 3 | 3 | – | – | 1 | 1 | 71 | 68 |
| P-2/1 | 17 | 18 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 17 | 18 |
| **Subtotal** | **120** | **118** | **3** | **3** | **–** | **–** | **1** | **1** | **124** | **122** |
| **Other** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Local level | 130 | 128 | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | 131 | 129 |
| Field Service | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| National Professional Officer | 3 | 4 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 3 | 4 |
| **Subtotal** | **134** | **133** | **1** | **1** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **–** | **135** | **134** |
| **Total** | **254** | **251** | **4** | **4** | **–** | **–** | **1** | **1** | **259** | **256** |

Table 22.5 **Distribution of resources by component**

(Percentage)

| | Regular budget | Extrabudgetary |
|---|---|---|
| A. Policymaking organs | 0.3 | – |
| B. Executive direction and management | 7.3 | – |
| C. Programme of work | | |
| 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development | 10.0 | 31.9 |
| 2. Social development | 9.9 | – |
| 3. Economic development and integration | 11.8 | 39.6 |
| 4. Technology for development and regional integration | 4.2 | – |
| 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking | 6.8 | 3.3 |
| 6. Advancement of women | 4.4 | 0.1 |
| 7. Conflict mitigation and development | 5.9 | 25.1 |
| **Subtotal** | **53.0** | **100.0** |
| D. Programme support | 39.4 | – |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **100.0** |

## Technical adjustments

22.19 Resource changes reflect a net increase of $1,019,200, broken down as follows:

(a) An increase of $1,071,200 relating to the biennial provision of resources for three new posts (1 P-3 under subprogramme 3 and 2 P-3 under programme support) that were established in the biennium 2016-2017, effective 1 January 2016, in the context of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017; four new temporary posts (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 Local level) in subprogramme 2 that were established in the biennium 2016-2017, effective 1 January 2017, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the

Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, offset in part by reductions relating to the phased abolishment of posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/247;

(b) The removal of non-recurrent requirements totalling $52,000 relating to activities in 2017 for the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (see General Assembly resolution 71/280).

**New and expanded mandates**

22.20 Resource changes reflect an increase of $385,500 relating to new mandates in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A.

**Changes within and/or across section(s)**

22.21 To optimize the delivery of its programme, ESCWA seeks to redeploy resources within and among its budget components to realign the reporting lines of the ESCWA Technology Centre in Amman to subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, to enhance the Centre's role of regional forum for knowledge-sharing among member countries on the transfer of technology for sustainable development; to strengthen the administrative capacity of its subprogramme on social development; to strengthen the capacity of its subprogramme on conflict mitigation and development to deal with governance in countries and communities affected by conflict; and to allow closer coordination and alignment of its outreach and external communication activities to the overall strategic direction of ESCWA. The proposed redeployments, on a cost-neutral basis, reflect increased resources under executive direction and management and subprogrammes 1, 2 and 7, offset by decreased requirements under policymaking organs, subprogrammes 3 and 4 and the programme support component.

**Other changes**

22.22 Resource changes reflect a reduction of $969,300, made possible from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in the biennium 2018-2019. The proposed reduction is a result of, inter alia, the efforts of the Commission to apply the anticipated Umoja efficiencies presented in the eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the enterprise resource planning project (A/71/390) to individual day-to-day operations. The Umoja efficiencies set out in the eighth progress report were based on the Organization's experience with the system, anticipated future changes, including future roll-outs, a global review of end-to-end processes, the retirement of legacy systems and improvements to business process and planning capabilities. Efficiencies were expressed, inter alia, as the dollar value of a full-time equivalent, where applicable. Further information on the approach is provided in the foreword and introduction of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

22.23 For ESCWA, the post and non-post reduction of $969,300 reflects a $544,900 reduction under all subprogrammes of the programme of work and a $424,400 reduction under programme support.

**Extrabudgetary resources**

22.24 ESCWA receives both cash and in-kind contributions, which complement regular budget resources and continue to be vital in the delivery of its mandates. Extrabudgetary resources (cash contributions) are estimated at $12,674,900 for activities aimed at national capacity-building, including advisory service missions, training workshops and field projects. Anticipated projects during the biennium 2018-2019 would include ongoing work on regional initiatives for small-scale renewable energy applications in the Arab region; the second stage of the Regional Initiative for the Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region (RICCAR II); the second stage of the programme entitled "the national agenda for the future of Syria"; a project on the socioeconomic dialogue in Libya; work

with the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme; and a project on institutional strengthening for recovery and reconciliation in Yemen.

22.25 Anticipated in-kind contributions for the biennium 2018-2019, which would provide mainly for rent-free premises, are estimated at $19.5 million.

## Other information

22.26 ESCWA ensures accountability of managers and staff by monitoring compliance with regulations, rules, policies, timelines and service level agreements. Where weaknesses are identified, training opportunities are offered to enhance performance management skills and further the understanding of rules and regulations. The control framework is regularly updated through the release of new standard operating procedures aligned with new business processes.

22.27 Senior management tracks the follow-up to recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Joint Inspection Unit and similar bodies. For instance, it has acted to ensure advance planning for meetings, workshops and training courses so that the lists of participants can be finalized in time to comply with the travel policy of purchasing tickets at least 16 days in advance of travel. The implementation of Umoja reporting facilities offer the potential for managers and staff to track activities, cost and transactions to a greater degree of detail than was previously possible.

22.28 The Executive Secretary's compact includes multiple dimensions of achievement that, in turn, are contingent on the performance of senior managers with regard to indicators, including on budget implementation, status of post vacancies and gender balance.

22.29 During the biennium 2018-2019, ESCWA will evaluate two of its seven subprogrammes, eight United Nations Development Account projects and four extrabudgetary projects. The findings and recommendations of evaluations carried out in previous bienniums will guide the design of the 2018-2019 evaluations. In particular, the results of the programme evaluation and programmatic audit finalized by OIOS in 2016 will be considered in the prioritization of subprogrammes and thematic evaluations. Previous evaluations have shown that subprogrammes need to continue to enhance their interdisciplinary work, reach out more to regional partners with dedicated dissemination and outreach plans and further integrate gender and women's empowerment into their work. ESCWA has also concluded that Development Account projects should, where possible, include an inception phase to launch consultations with partners and beneficiaries, use online platforms to strengthen information-sharing and include a strategy to enhance sustainability of results.

22.30 Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/269, the Secretary-General has been requested to identify resources for the conduct of monitoring and evaluation. For ESCWA, this would amount to $1,392,900, including $974,000 for post resources and $418,900 for non-post resources. Post resources represent 86.75 work-months, comprising 61.25 work-months in the Professional and higher categories and 25.5 work-months in the Local level category. Non-post resources for the conduct of monitoring and evaluation include $265,800 funded from extrabudgetary sources.

22.31 In line with its partnership strategy, adopted in 2014, ESCWA seeks to engage in targeted and complementary collaboration with key actors in the region in order to pursue its development outcomes. That entails working with different partners at different stages of planning and implementation, with an awareness of the distinct short-, medium- and long-term results of such cooperative efforts, as well as creating a support infrastructure for the Commission's main areas of work, so as to guarantee a comprehensive approach to development challenges, whether at the level of research, advocacy or policy development.

22.32 In its normative and research work, the Commission will engage with national, regional and international think tanks and research centres, tapping into new thinking and influencing research agendas. Through its intergovernmental and expert platforms, it will gather policymakers,

researchers, experts and government and intergovernmental bodies to facilitate dialogue and create consensus on key development challenges. It will continue to pursue and maintain partnerships with other regional commissions, notably through Development Account projects, high-level meetings and publications.

22.33 In its technical cooperation work, ESCWA will work closely with United Nations country teams and specialized agencies, funds and programmes to ensure consistent and effective support to its member States on a range of sustainable development issues.

22.34 ESCWA convenes the Regional Coordination Mechanism, which brings together all United Nations entities and non-United Nations regional organizations in the region to increase policy coherence and promote partnerships and joint activities on regional development priorities. The Commission leads three of the four Mechanism working groups: on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, international migration and data on the Sustainable Development Goals. The twenty-first and twenty-second meetings of the Mechanism, held in 2015 and 2016, addressed the regional policy and programme for the 2030 Agenda with a view to encouraging inter-agency discussion on key human development challenges in a region affected by conflict and crisis. During the biennium 2018-2019, the Commission will again convene its annual meetings. Coordination with regional United Nations entities also occurs through the peer support group of the United Nations Development Group. The Commission will continue to participate in the Group's regular meetings.

22.35 Following a review of the publications pertaining to each subprogramme, it is anticipated that recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be issued as summarized in table 22.6 and as distributed in the output information for each subprogramme.

Table 22.6 **Summary of publications**

| | *2014-2015 actual* | | | *2016-2017 estimate* | | | *2018-2019 estimate* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Print* | *Electronic* | *Print and electronic* | *Print* | *Electronic* | *Print and electronic* | *Print* | *Electronic* | *Print and electronic* |
| Recurrent | – | 2 | 50 | – | 2 | 42 | – | 8 | 38 |
| Non-recurrent | – | 30 | 64 | – | 40 | 62 | – | 40 | 74 |
| **Total** | **–** | **32** | **114** | **–** | **42** | **104** | **–** | **48** | **112** |

## A. Policymaking organs

***Resource requirements: $181,200***

22.36 Provision is made under this subsection for requirements related to standing intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes, the servicing of which is the responsibility of the policymaking organs and which are deemed to require specific provisions. The provision for intergovernmental organs and intergovernmental processes is in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, which were adopted at the first session of the Commission (E/ESCWA/9), incorporating amendments adopted by the Commission in its resolutions 133 (XII), 153 (XIII), 158 (XIV), 159 (XIV), 178 (XVI) and 196 (XVII).

22.37 The Commission has eight specialized subsidiary intergovernmental committees, two of which meet biennially and six annually. The sequence and dates of their sessions are as follows:

(a) The twelfth session of the Committee on Energy, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 204 (XVIII) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/25, for two days in 2018 (subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development);

(b) The thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 205 (XVIII) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/26, for two days in 2018 (subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development);

(c) The twelfth session of the Committee on Social Development, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 198 (XVII) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/27, for two days in 2019 (subprogramme 2, Social development);

(d) The nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the Committee on Transport, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 213 (XIX) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1997/11 (see also ESCWA resolution 229 (XXI) concerning the frequency of the sessions of the Committee), for two days in both 2018 and 2019 (subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration);

(e) The thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 214 (XIX), for two days in both 2018 and 2019 (subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration);

(f) The thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 179 (XVI) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1993/2, for two days in 2018, and the sixth session of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee for one day in 2019 (subprogramme 5, Statistics for evidence-based policymaking);

(g) The ninth session of the Committee on Women, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 240 (XXII) by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/9, for two days in 2019 (subprogramme 6, Advancement of women);

(h) The second session of the Committee on Technology for Development, established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 315 (XXVIII)), for two days in 2018 (subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration).

22.38 ESCWA reports to the Economic and Social Council, and sessions of the Commission provide overall direction to the work of the secretariat. The session convenes once every two years, usually for four working days and at ESCWA headquarters. As mandated by ESCWA resolution 230 (XXI), the session of the Preparatory Committee is an integral part of the sessions of the Commission. The thirtieth session will convene in 2018, with a senior officials segment (two days) to consider programmatic agenda items, followed by the ministerial plenary segment (two days).

22.39 The Executive Committee meets three times per biennium to assume the responsibility of the Commission between ministerial sessions. It guides the secretariat on programmatic issues, including the draft strategic framework, the proposed programme of work, implementation of the programme of work, resource mobilization, follow-up to resolutions of the Commission and identification of emerging regional economic and social issues for consideration by the Commission.[1]

22.40 The ESCWA Advisory Committee meets twice a year for one-day sessions. It comprises heads of diplomatic missions in the host country of the Commission and a high-level representative of the host country. It plays a consultative role and functions as a principal means of communication between member States and the ESCWA secretariat and among member States themselves on important matters requiring attention between the biennial sessions of the Commission.

22.41 The distribution of resources for policymaking organs is reflected in table 22.7.

[1] The Executive Committee was established pursuant to ESCWA resolution 320 (XXVIII), adopted at the twenty-eighth session of the Commission, held in Tunis from 15 to 18 September 2014. The Executive Committee is empowered to facilitate direct communication between the secretariat and member States on development, economic and social issues by convening its meetings more regularly and submitting resolutions to the Economic and Social Council.

Table 22.7 **Resource requirements: policymaking organs**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Non-post | 183.7 | 181.2 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **183.7** | **181.2** | **–** | **–** |
| Extrabudgetary | 169.4 | – | – | – |
| **Total** | **353.1** | **181.2** | **–** | **–** |

22.42 The amount of $181,200, reflecting a decrease of $2,500 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the servicing of the thirtieth session of the Commission, the sessions of its specialized subsidiary intergovernmental committees and the meetings of the Executive Committee.

22.43 The decrease of $2,500 reflects a redeployment of resources relating to experts for the Committee on Technology for Development to subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration, in line with ESCWA practice whereby intergovernmental meetings are budgeted under their respective subprogrammes.

## B. Executive direction and management

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $5,173,800***

22.44 Executive direction and management, which comprises the Office of the Executive Secretary and the consolidated offices of the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme and the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, provides overall direction and integrated management, programme oversight, planning and coordination, and policy guidelines to the substantive divisions, the technical cooperation programme and the support services for the proper implementation of the work programme of ESCWA, as mandated by the General Assembly. It also ensures that ESCWA, as the regional arm of the United Nations, plays a major role in the economic and social development of the region; undertakes to translate issues of global importance into regional action, as mandated by member States; and facilitates the articulation of the collective concerns of member States by incorporating them into the global agenda. Moreover, the Office of the Executive Secretary maintains effective and regular contact with representatives of member States, as well as with the host country's senior officials, to exchange views on substantive and managerial issues of mutual concern, and with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

22.45 In addition, the Office of the Executive Secretary ensures the development of United Nations system-wide policies and mandates and promotes coherence and effective collaboration and coordination between ESCWA and other entities of the United Nations system, especially among the five regional commissions, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Regional Commissions New York Office. It will continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination with international and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, especially the League of Arab States and its subsidiary bodies.

22.46 The Office of the Executive Secretary is responsible for the functioning and servicing of the Commission's intergovernmental machinery, including the Commission's biennial session and the meetings of subsidiary intergovernmental bodies, the ESCWA Advisory Committee and the ESCWA Executive Committee.

Table 22.8 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To ensure full implementation of legislative mandates and compliance with United Nations policies and procedures with respect to the management of the programme of work, and of staff and financial resources of ESCWA

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018–2019* | *2016–2017* | *2014–2015* | *2012–2013* |
| (a) ESCWA programme of work is effectively managed | (i) Timely delivery of outputs and services [percentage] | Target | 97 | 94 | 90 | 93 |
| | | Estimate | | 94 | 93 | 93 |
| | | Actual | | | 99 | 98 |
| | (ii) Efficient and effective use of resources [percentage] | Target | 100 | – | 100 | 100 |
| | | Estimate | | – | 100 | 100 |
| | | Actual | | | 100 | |
| (b) Increased timeliness of submission of documentation | Increased percentage of pre-session documents submitted in accordance with the required deadline | Target | 100 | 85 | 100 | 100 |
| | | Estimate | | 85 | 83 | 100 |
| | | Actual | | | 95 | 83 |
| (c) Identifying and addressing emerging issues that require attention by member States | Increase in the number of occasions that the secretariat brings emerging issues to the attention of member States | Target | 9 | 8 | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 8 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | – | |
| (d) Enhanced policy coherence in the management of the economic and social activities of the United Nations | Increase in the number of coordination initiatives with other Regional Coordination Mechanism members | Target | 8 | 6 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 6 | 5 | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (e) Increased public awareness of ESCWA work in pursuing regional priorities and emerging issues | (i) Increased media coverage of ESCWA activities [Number of audiovisual and written press reports on ESCWA activities] | Target | 1 140 | 1 130 | 1 100 | 1 000 |
| | | Estimate | | 1 130 | 1 000 | 1 000 |
| | | Actual | | | 1 100 | 1 230 |
| | (ii) Increase in traffic on ESCWA website, downloads of publications and participation on social media [percentage] | Target | 30 | 20 | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 20 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | – | |
| (f) Build new partnerships and strengthen existing ones (with the purpose of broadening the outreach and impact of ESCWA activities) | Increase in number of new partnerships forged | Target | 12 | 10 | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 10 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | – | |
| (g) Efficiencies achieved in travel costs for the Organization | Increased percentage of air tickets purchased at least two weeks before the commencement of travel | Target | 100 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

## External factors

22.47 The executive direction and management component is expected to achieve its objectives and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) the political situation in the host country and the region does not deteriorate; (b) member States will actively participate in the formulation of the ESCWA programme of work; (c) member States have the capacity and will to reorient their economic and social structures and policies; (d) national institutions will be willing to provide relevant and timely information; and (e) the media has access to the United Nations House and other venues hosting ESCWA events.

## Outputs

22.48 The outputs to be delivered during the biennium 2018-2019 are reflected in table 22.9. The distribution of resources for executive direction and management is reflected in table 22.10.

Table 22.9 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 1. Thirtieth session of the Commission and the sessions of its subsidiary bodies | 8 |
| 2. Meetings of the ESCWA Advisory Committee | 4 |
| 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee | 12 |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 4. Arab "think tank" meeting in 2018 | 1 |
| 5. Annual meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism | 2 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 6. ESCWA annual report, 2017 | 1 |
| 7. ESCWA annual report, 2018 | 1 |
| Exhibits, guided tours, lectures | |
| 8. Briefings/lectures/awareness activities with schools, universities and other visitors on the work of the United Nations in general and ESCWA throughout the biennium | 2 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 9. ESCWA news in English and Arabic on the ESCWA website | 2 |
| 10. Brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters and other promotional material on ESCWA activities | 2 |
| Special events | |
| 11. Planning and servicing of selected international days and weeks, such as United Nations Day, International Women's Day and World Environment Day, which involve inviting official representatives from member States, diplomats accredited to the host country, regional dignitaries, representatives of civil society and the media | 2 |
| Audiovisual resources | |
| 12. Production of two television spots and/or documentaries for distribution to the media throughout the region | 2 |
| Press releases, press conferences | |
| 13. Press conferences and press briefings for the Executive Secretary and other senior officials and for the launch of flagship publications and major events | 2 |
| 14. Interviews for the Executive Secretary and other senior officials | 2 |
| 15. Press releases in English and Arabic on ESCWA activities and their dissemination to the media throughout the region | 2 |
| 16. Media coverage for ESCWA meetings and activities | 2 |

Table 22.10 **Resource requirements: executive direction and management**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 3 879.3 | 4 500.4 | 15 | 18 |
| Non-post | 669.7 | 673.4 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **4 549.0** | **5 173.8** | **15** | **18** |
| Extrabudgetary | 257.4 | – | – | – |
| **Total** | **4 806.4** | **5 173.8** | **15** | **18** |

22.49 The amount of $5,173,800, reflecting a net increase of $624,800 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 18 posts (1 Under-Secretary-General, 2 D-2, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 10 Local level) ($4,500,400) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff, contractual services, general operating expenses, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment ($673,400), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.50 The net increase of $624,800 reflects the proposed inward redeployment of one post of Public Information Officer (P-4) and two posts of Public Information Assistant (Local level) from the Communication and Information Unit in the Conference Services Section, under programme support, to the Office of the Executive Secretary to allow for closer coordination and alignment between the strategic direction of ESCWA set by the Office of the Executive Secretary and the outreach and external communications activities; and other net increases under non-post resources.

## C. Programme of work

22.51 The distribution of resources by subprogramme is reflected in table 22.11.

Table 22.11 **Resource requirements by subprogramme**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Subprogramme* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| 1. Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development | 6 454.4 | 7 031.0 | 22 | 24 |
| 2. Social development | 6 027.0 | 6 948.6 | 23 | 24 |
| 3. Economic development and integration | 8 706.7 | 8 353.6 | 34 | 31 |
| 4. Technology for development and regional integration | 3 950.8 | 2 992.2 | 14 | 10 |
| 5. Statistics for evidence-based policymaking | 4 801.8 | 4 792.5 | 18 | 18 |
| 6. Advancement of women | 3 130.5 | 3 120.5 | 11 | 11 |
| 7. Conflict mitigation and development | 3 683.5 | 4 146.6 | 13 | 15 |
| **Subtotal** | **36 754.7** | **37 385.0** | **135** | **133** |
| Extrabudgetary | 12 247.4 | 12 674.9 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **49 002.1** | **50 059.9** | **136** | **134** |

## Subprogramme 1
## Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $7,031,000***

22.52 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Sustainable Development Policies Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 1 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.12 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To achieve the integrated management of natural resources leading to improved food, water and energy security and enhanced resilience to climate change, and to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into regional and national policy processes

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
| (a) Increased alignment of member States' national plans with the Sustainable Development Goals by drawing upon the water-energy-food nexus | (i) Increased number of multisectoral institutional mechanisms established to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans | Target | 4 | 3 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | – | – |
| | (ii) Increased number of strategies, plans and policies adopted by line ministries to support the integrated management of natural resources | Target | 5 | 3 | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | – | – |
| | | Actual | | | – | |
| (b) Increased engagement by member States in regional and subregional processes in support of agreements, strategies and standards related to water, energy, food and the environment | (i) Increased number of harmonized tools, techniques and guidelines implemented by member States to enhance food, water and energy security | Target | 5 | 3 | 3 | |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | – | – |
| | | Actual | | | – | – |
| | (ii) Increased number of joint initiatives and intergovernmental resolutions adopted to enhance regional cooperation on sustainability of natural resources | Target | 23 | 20 | 13 | |
| | | Estimate | | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| | | Actual | | | 15 | 10 |
| (c) Strengthened resilience of member States to climate change and natural disasters and of vulnerable communities | (i) Increased number of intergovernmental recommendations, resolutions and decrees adopted by member States across sectors that aim to coordinate responses to climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction | Target | 16 | 13 | 9 | |
| | | Estimate | | 13 | 10 | 5 |
| | | Actual | | | 10 | 5 |
| | (ii) Increased number of measures adopted by member States to mainstream the science-policy interface in relation to climate change | Target | 2 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

### External factors

22.53 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to giving due priority to sustainable development issues and to adopting appropriate measures for enhancing food, energy and water security; (b) improved political stability is achieved, leading to institution-building and enhanced governance and transparency; (c) member States are willing to establish mechanisms at interregional and interministerial levels to cooperate on sustainable development issues and work on achieving the

sustainable development-related goals; and (d) there are no significant shortfalls in extrabudgetary resources.

## Outputs

22.54 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.13 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Report to the Commission on the eleventh session of the Committee on Energy | 1 |
| 2. Report to the Commission on the twelfth session of the Committee on Water Resources | 1 |
| *Committee on Water Resources* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 3. Substantive servicing of the meetings of the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources | 4 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 4. Report to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources on the linkages between climate change and disaster risk reduction in the Arab region | 1 |
| 5. Report to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources and to the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy on the joint activities undertaken on the water-energy-food nexus | 1 |
| 6. Report to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources on the follow-up to the water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region | 1 |
| *Committee on Energy* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 7. Substantive servicing of the meetings of the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy | 4 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 8. Report to the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy on energy market development in the Arab region | 1 |
| 9. Report to the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy on exploring the interface between nationally determined contributions and the Sustainable Development Goals: common goals | 1 |
| 10. Report to the thirteenth session of the Committee on Water Resources and to the twelfth session of the Committee on Energy on progress made towards mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in national development plans | 1 |
| *ESCWA Technology Centre Advisory Board* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 11. Meeting of the ESCWA Technology Centre Advisory Board, 2018 | 1 |
| 12. Meeting of the ESCWA Technology Centre Advisory Board, 2019 | 1 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 13. Report on the activities of the ESCWA Technology Centre over the period 2016-2017 | 1 |
| Other services | |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 14. Expert group meeting on operationalizing an institutional framework for follow-up to the water-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the Arab region | 1 |
| 15. Expert group meeting on gas flaring management in Arab countries | 1 |
| 16. Expert group meeting on knowledge-sharing to support the science-policy interface for climate change action | 1 |
| 17. Expert group meeting on energy productivity in Arab countries | 1 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 18. Expert group meeting on the water-energy-food nexus | 1 |
| 19. Expert group meeting on shared water with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 20. Expert group meeting on food security with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 21. Expert group meeting on energy with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 22. Expert group meeting on climate change and economic development with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 23. Expert group meeting on technology transfer and adaptation for sustainable consumption and production in Arab countries: case studies in waste, water and energy | 1 |
| Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs | |
| 24. Intersessional governmental consultative meetings in preparation for the Arab High-level Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018 | 1 |
| 25. Intergovernmental consultative sessions in preparation for the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2019 | 1 |
| 26. Regional consultations on the impact of climate change on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 27. Regional consultation on the alignment of national water, food and environment plans with the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 28. Support for the executive secretariat of the ESCWA-United Nations Environment Programme-League of Arab States Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region and follow-up to resolutions taken by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 29. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Ministerial Water Council, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 30. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and Technical Committees on Electricity and Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 31. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 32. *ESCWA Water Development Report No. 8: The water-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region* | 1 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 33. Tracking progress with regard to the energy-related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region | 1 |
| 34. Addressing energy vulnerability in the Arab region | 1 |
| 35. Food security in the Arab region: monitoring and follow-up | 1 |
| 36. Moving towards the implementation of water security in the Arab region | 1 |
| Audiovisual resources | |
| 37. Electronic platform for providing tools, methodologies and guidance on the water-related Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 38. Promotional material for World Environment Day, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought and World Agriculture Day, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 39. Fact sheet on renewable energy legislation in Arab countries | 1 |
| 40. Promotional material for World Water Day, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 41. Fact sheet on food security in the Arab region | 1 |
| 42. Promotional material on good agricultural practices | 1 |
| 43. Booklet on electricity interconnections and natural gas interconnections in the Arab region | 1 |
| 44. Fact sheet on stocktaking of the nationally determined contributions of the Arab States | 1 |
| 45. Fact sheet on energy efficiency legislation in Arab countries | 1 |
| 46. Booklet on waste to energy | 1 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 47. Booklet on accessing the regional knowledge hub on climate and water for supporting the science-policy interface | 1 |
| 48. Fact sheet on technologies for greenhouse gas mitigation in the transport sector | 1 |
| 49. Booklet on technologies for creating value from carbon dioxide in Arab countries | 1 |
| 50. Fact sheet on innovative technologies for improving the resilience of the agriculture sector to the impact of climate change | 1 |
| Technical material | |
| 51. Working paper on green financing | 1 |
| 52. Technical report on accessing the means of implementing the Paris Agreement in the Arab region | 1 |
| 53. Guidelines for coordination between agriculture and water | 1 |
| 54. Technical material on regionalizing the global water-related Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework and methodology for the Arab region | 1 |
| 55. Policy brief on best practices for the implementation of sustainable energy action plans | 1 |
| 56. Technical material on the role of demand-side management in enhancing water, energy and food security in the Arab region and improving the management of natural resources | 1 |
| 57. Technical material on monitoring food security in the Arab region | 1 |
| 58. Report on shared water with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 59. Report on food security with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 60. Report on climate change and economic development with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 61. Report on energy with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 62. Technical material on technology transfer and adaptation for sustainable consumption and production in Arab countries: case studies in waste, water and energy | 1 |
| Seminars | |
| 63. Seminar on monitoring the implementation of the energy-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators in the Arab region | 1 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 64. Substantive contribution to the United Nations coordination bodies on energy, water and the environment, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 65. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Water Week, 2019 | 1 |
| 66. Technical contribution to World Water Week, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 67. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Forum for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, 2018 | 1 |
| 68. Substantive contribution to and support for global and regional forums on energy, water and food, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 69. Substantive contribution to and support for Arab States in preparation for sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 70. Substantive contribution to and support for the high-level political forum on sustainable development, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 71. Substantive contribution to and support for the United Nations Environment Assembly, 2018 | 1 |
| 72. Substantive contribution through technical and policy briefs to the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 73. Substantive input to the Arab High-level Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 74. Substantive input to the Arab Sustainable Development Report | 1 |

22.55 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 1 is reflected in table 22.14.

Table 22.14 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 1**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 5 619.3 | 6 209.1 | 22 | 24 |
| Non-post | 835.1 | 821.9 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **6 454.4** | **7 031.0** | **22** | **24** |
| Extrabudgetary | 4 219.2 | 4 048.1 | – | – |
| **Total** | **10 673.6** | **11 079.1** | **22** | **24** |

22.56 The amount of $7,031,000, reflecting a net increase of $576,600 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 24 posts (1 D-1, 5 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2, 1 National Professional Officer and 9 Local level) ($6,209,100) and non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($821,900), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.57 The net increase of $576,600 reflects the proposed inward redeployment of one post of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) and one post of Programme Management Officer (National Professional Officer) from the Technology for Development Division in subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration, reflecting the proposal to change the reporting lines of the ESCWA Technology Centre from subprogramme 4 to subprogramme 1 in order to enhance the role of information technology in supporting sustainable development, offset in part by non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019.

22.58 During the biennium 2018-2019, estimated extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $4,048,100 would support the extension of existing projects related to the promotion of water and food security through cooperation and capacity development in the Arab region, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. New initiatives, such as a regional initiative for small-scale renewable energy applications in the Arab region and RICCAR II, both sponsored by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, will focus on assessing the impact of climate change on water resources and socioeconomic vulnerability in the region.

## Subprogramme 2
## Social development

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $6,948,600***

22.59 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Social Development Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 2 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.15 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To achieve the adoption by member States of a rights-based approach to equitable, inclusive and participatory social development towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | *Performance measures* | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) Further development by member States of rights-based social policies or programmes that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on social inclusion and social protection | (i) Increased number of policies or programmes developed or enhanced to improve social protection and expand the provision of social services | Target | 10 | 8 | 6 | |
| | | Estimate | | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| | | Actual | | | 6 | 4 |
| | (ii) Increased number of policies or programmes targeting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups | Target | 37 | 30 | 24 | |
| | | Estimate | | 32 | 24 | 21 |
| | | Actual | | | 26 | 21 |
| (b) Increased engagement of member States in intraregional consultations towards the elaboration and implementation of policies that maximize the development impact of international migration | (i) Increased number of instances in which member States engage in regional-level policy dialogue on international migration facilitated by ESCWA | Target | 9 | 4 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 6 | 2 | |
| | | Actual | | | 3 | 1 |
| | (ii) Increased number of policies that reflect member States' awareness of the development opportunities and challenges of international migration | Target | 7 | 5 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 5 | 3 | |
| | | Actual | | | 3 | 2 |
| (c) Increased emphasis by member States on a social justice approach to development planning based on equality, equity and participation | (i) Increased number of governmental and non-governmental institutions that apply ESCWA tools in policymaking towards fostering social justice for all | Target | 24 | 22 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 22 | 20 | |
| | | Actual | | | 20 | 16 |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States engaged in multi-stakeholder consultations on key national and regional social development priorities facilitated by ESCWA | Target | 17 | 16 | 14 | 10 |
| | | Estimate | | 16 | 14 | 10 |
| | | Actual | | | 14 | 10 |

## External factors

22.60 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to the 2030 Agenda, to promoting social justice through equitable, inclusive and participatory socioeconomic development and to engagement with other development stakeholders in key policy areas; and (b) political stability will enable member States to engage and participate in planned national and regional activities.

## Outputs

22.61 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.16 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Parliamentary documentation on population and development issues | 1 |
| 2. Parliamentary documentation on inclusive social/urban policy | 1 |
| 3. Parliamentary document on the proposed social justice framework | 1 |
| *Committee on Social Development* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 4. Substantive servicing of the meetings of the twelfth session of the Committee on Social Development | 4 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 5. Report to the Commission on the eleventh session of the Committee on Social Development | 1 |
| Other services | |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 6. Expert group meeting on the draft report on social protection in Arab countries | 1 |
| 7. Expert group meeting on population and sustainable development | 1 |
| 8. Expert group meeting on ageing issues | 1 |
| 9. Expert group meeting on international migration and development in the Arab region | 1 |
| 10. Expert group meeting to discuss findings of Social Development Report No. 3, on the future of social justice in the Arab region | 1 |
| 11. Expert group meeting on the inception of the regional development partnership mechanism | 1 |
| 12. Expert group meeting on population dynamics with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 13. Expert group meeting on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 14. Expert group meeting on regional follow-up and review | 1 |
| Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs | |
| 15. Annual meeting of national population councils (intergovernmental meeting co-organized by the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund and ESCWA), 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 16. Civil society dialogue series/civil society consultative meeting on social justice issues in the Arab region, held jointly with the Directorate of Governance and Civil Society in the Ministry of the Interior of Lebanon and the Arab NGO Network for Development, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 17. Organization of meetings of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development | 2 |
| 18. Regional Coordination Mechanism thematic working group on the 2030 Agenda, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 19. *Population and Development Report No. 9: Youth in the Arab region* | 1 |
| 20. *Social Development Report No. 3*, on the future of social justice in the Arab region | 1 |
| 21. *Arab Sustainable Development Report* | 1 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 22. Social protection in Arab countries | 1 |
| 23. Situation report on international migration and development in the Arab region, 2019 | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 24. Pamphlet on the theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, 2018 | 1 |
| 25. National demographic profiles for 22 Arab countries | 1 |
| 26. Pamphlet on the theme of the Committee on Social Development, 2019 | 1 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 27. Pamphlet on social justice for the World Day of Social Justice | 1 |
| Technical material | |
| 28. Technical paper on social protection in rural areas | 1 |
| 29. Technical paper on youth issues | 1 |
| 30. Technical paper on ageing issues | 1 |
| 31. Social policy brief on ageing | 1 |
| 32. Demographic profile of the Arab region (with a focus on youth) | 1 |
| 33. Technical paper on disability policy | 1 |
| 34. Technical paper on inclusive cities | 1 |
| 35. Social policy brief on international migration | 1 |
| 36. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues, entitled "Reaching the furthest behind: policy options for the achievement of socially just Arab societies" | 1 |
| 37. Policy brief series on social justice-related issues, entitled "Best practices on social justice and participation in the Arab region" | 1 |
| 38. Technical paper on the measurement of intergenerational justice in the context of the Arab region | 1 |
| 39. Technical paper on mainstreaming justice, equality and inclusion into the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 40. Social development bulletin on selected topic related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals | 2 |
| 41. Social development bulletin on international migration and development | 1 |
| 42. Social development bulletin on recapitulating the main results of the regional development partnership mechanism | 1 |
| 43. Technical papers on Sustainable Development Goals with cross-border regional implications | 4 |
| 44. Report on population dynamics with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 45. Report on disability with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 46. Regional reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (based on national reports) | 1 |
| Seminars | |
| 47. Regional awareness-raising seminars on the adaptation and alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| Special events | |
| 48. Launch of *Population and Development Report No. 9* | 1 |
| 49. Launch of the situation report on international migration and development in the Arab region | 1 |
| 50. Tenth annual observance of the World Day of Social Justice (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund and Friedrich Naumann Foundation) | 1 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 51. Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: follow-up to the New Urban Agenda | 1 |
| 52. Servicing of meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | 1 |
| 53. Substantive contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Internal oversight services (regular budget)** | |
| 54. Evaluation of subprogramme 2 | 1 |

22.62 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 2 is reflected in table 22.17.

Table 22.17 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 2**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 5 081.5 | 5 946.1 | 23 | 24 |
| Non-post | 945.5 | 1 002.5 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **6 027.0** | **6 948.6** | **23** | **24** |
| Extrabudgetary | 26.1 | – | – | – |
| **Total** | **6 053.1** | **6 948.6** | **23** | **24** |

22.63 The amount of $6,948,600, reflecting a net increase of $921,600 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 24 posts (1 D-1, 3 P-5, 4 P-4, 4 P-3, 3 P-2 and 9 Local level) ($5,946,100) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($1,002,500), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.64 The net increase of $921,600 reflects:

(a) The biennial provision of resources for four new temporary posts, namely, one post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4), one post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-3), one post of Social Affairs Officer (P-3) and one post of Administrative Assistant (Local level), established in the biennium 2016-2017, effective 1 January 2017, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(b) The inward redeployment of one post of Administrative Assistant (Local level) from subprogramme 4, Technology for development and regional integration, to strengthen the administrative capacity of subprogramme 2;

(c) The provision of additional non-post resources to cover new mandates, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;

(d) The removal of non-recurrent requirements relating to activities in 2017 for the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (see General Assembly resolution 71/280);

(e) Non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019.

## Subprogramme 3
## Economic development and integration

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $8,353,600***

22.65 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Economic Development and Integration Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 3 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

## Table 22.18 Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

*Objective of the Organization*: To achieve a basic standard of living for all people in member States through sustained and more inclusive economic development within a more integrated region

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
| (a) More effective responses by member States to reduce poverty by adopting and implementing multidimensional poverty approaches | (i) Increased number of member States that agree on a regional action plan addressing multidimensional poverty | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | – | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies to promote new methods of monitoring indicators related to multidimensional poverty and inequality | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | – | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (iii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement inclusive plans and policies toward to addressing multidimensional poverty and inequality | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | – | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (b) Increased effectiveness by member States in filling the financing gap and raising funds from traditional and innovative sources to meet international development agendas | (i) Increased number of member States that implement measures to mobilize financial resources for development according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt regulatory reforms and legislation to enhance the business environment | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (c) Enhanced enabling macroeconomic policy environment for regional integration supported by policy assessment tools | (i) Increased number of institutions that develop knowledge-based economic tools and strategies with the support of ESCWA | Target | 3 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 2 | | |
| | | Actual | | | 1 | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that develop and implement policies using ESCWA forecasting tools | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (d) Increased application of principles of good economic governance to promote inclusive economic transformation and regional integration | (i) Increased number of member States that use economic governance indicators to inform policymaking in the public and private sector | Target | 2 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt policies for economic transformation and improved economic governance to facilitate development of viable regional value chains and connectivity to global value chains | Target | 3 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (e) Improved regional coordination among member States for cross-border infrastructure, especially in transport and trade facilitation | (i) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement regional or bilateral cross-border trade and trade facilitation agreements, such as the Arab Customs Union, towards enhancing intraregional and interregional trade | Target | 3 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement | | Performance measures | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2014-2015 | 2012-2013 |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that adopt and implement ESCWA recommendations to enhance the coordination of their macroeconomic and sectoral policies for trade promotion | Target | 3 | – | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (iii) Increased number of member States that adopt the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq agreements and create national committees for transport and trade facilitation | Target | | | | |
| | | Estimate | | | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

## External factors

22.66 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States remain committed to giving priority to sustainable economic development issues and to adopting proper measures for enhancing economic knowledge-based planning, financing for development, intraregional trade and transport and poverty alleviation; and (b) the political and security situation in member States and the region allows for the implementation of the workplan.

## Outputs

22.67 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.19 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| Outputs | Quantity |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Report on the eleventh session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region — focus on finance | 1 |
| 2. Report on the twelfth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region — focus on trade | 1 |
| 3. Report on the eighteenth session of the Committee on Transport, 2018 | 1 |
| 4. Report on the nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport, 2019 | 1 |
| *Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 5. Thirteenth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region — focus on finance | 4 |
| 6. Fourteenth session of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade, Economic Globalization and Financing for Development in the Countries of the ESCWA Region — focus on trade (follow-up to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda) | 4 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 7. Impediments to the full implementation of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, 2018 | 1 |
| 8. Overlapping of free trade agreements in the Arab region: challenges and options for deeper economic integration into global value chains, 2018 | 1 |

| Outputs | Quantity |
|---|---|
| 9. Trade logistics performance in the Arab region, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 10. From the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area to the Arab Customs Union: implementation issues, 2018 | 1 |
| 11. Progress made on financing for development | 1 |
| 12. Defining an intergovernmental process on development planning for ESCWA member States | 1 |
| 13. Status of implementation of the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement in the Arab region, 2019 | 1 |
| *Committee on Transport* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 14. Nineteenth session of the Committee on Transport, 2018 | 4 |
| 15. Twentieth session of the Committee on Transport, 2019 | 4 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 16. Follow-up report on the implementation of transport agreements involving Arab countries, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 17. Status of negotiations of new regional transport agreements involving Arab countries, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 18. Expert group meeting on the *Arab Development Outlook*, 2018-2019 (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 and 10) | 2 |
| 19. Expert group meeting on financing for development thematic priorities | 1 |
| 20. Expert group meeting on financing for development and developmental regionalism: the Arab Citizens Common Economic Security Space, 2019 | 1 |
| 21. Peer review of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region, 2017-2018* | 1 |
| 22. Peer review of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region, 2018-2019* | 1 |
| 23. Annual expert group meeting on supporting Arab countries in transition | 2 |
| 24. Expert group meeting for planning/development ministries on planning for sustainable development (topics may include integration of the Sustainable Development Goals, technical and institutional challenges in designing national development plans, national and regional coordination, public consultation processes, linking planning and budgeting, and financing for development) | 2 |
| 25. Expert group meeting on online repository of national development plans of member States | 1 |
| 26. Expert group meeting on the concept note for the third edition of the *Assessing Arab Economic Integration* report, 2018 | 1 |
| 27. Expert group meeting on progress made by Arab countries in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda | 1 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 28. Regional strategy on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: focus on the nexus between economic growth, employment and poverty (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8 and 10) | 1 |
| 29. *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region*, 2017-2018 | 1 |
| 30. *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region*, 2018-2019 | 1 |
| 31. Flagship publication: *Assessing Arab Economic Integration*: report on achieving selected Sustainable Development Goals, 2019 | 1 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 32. Trade promotion and technical measures: illustrations from the Arab region, 2018 | 1 |
| Technical material | |
| 33. Working paper on fiscal space, poverty and inequality reduction in Arab countries (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 10 and 17): contribution to the *Arab Sustainable Development Report*, 2018-2019 | 1 |
| 34. Working paper on financial inclusion, diversification and inclusive growth (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 10 and 17) | 1 |

| Output | Quantity |
|---|---|
| 35. Working paper on dynamics of multidimensional poverty and policy challenges in the Arab region, 2018 (Sustainable Development Goal 1) | 1 |
| 36. Working paper on multidimensional poverty in the Arab region (update), 2019 (Sustainable Development Goal 1): contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018 | 1 |
| 37. Background paper on human development challenges (update) (Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4 and 16) | 1 |
| 38. Background paper on employment policy in addressing poverty (Sustainable Development Goal 8): contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, 2019 | 1 |
| 39. Compendium on the Arab financing for development scorecard, 2018-2019 | 1 |
| 40. Technical paper on the sustainable development and financing for development dimensions of the ESCWA Vision 2030 (Arab Citizens Common Economic Security Space), 2019 | 1 |
| 41. Technical paper on improving the business climate through good economic governance (Sustainable Development Goal 16) | 1 |
| 42. Technical paper on the situation of and prospects for regional development planning | 1 |
| 43. Technical material on assessing the role of trade policy in foreign direct investment inflows, 2018 | 1 |
| 44. Contribution to the surveys of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on aid for trade, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 45. Technical material on assessing the connectivity of selected Arab countries in global value chains: trends and recent changes, 2018 | 1 |
| 46. Technical material on techniques of defining appropriate rules of origin in preferential trade agreements, 2019 | 1 |
| 47. Technical material on assessing sectoral policy convergence in the Arab region: water | 1 |
| 48. Technical material on assessing sectoral policy convergence in the Arab region: energy | 1 |
| 49. Technical material on assessing fiscal policy coordination in the Arab region: indirect taxes, 2019 | 1 |
| 50. Technical material on assessing changes in trade costs in the Arab region, 2019 | 1 |
| 51. Introducing household heterogeneity in the regional computable general equilibrium model | 1 |
| 52. Introducing foreign direct investment in the regional computable general equilibrium model | 1 |
| 53. Trade policy overview: fact sheets for 18 member States, 2019 | 18 |
| 54. Study on remittances and development in Palestine | 1 |
| 55. Study on the impact of illicit financial outflows on Arab economies | 1 |
| Special events | |
| 56. Launch of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region*, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 57. Launch of the flagship publication, 2019 | 1 |
| Seminars | |
| 58. Regional seminar on mobilizing domestic resources for development in the Arab countries | 1 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 59. Regional inputs to the annual publication of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, 2019 and 2020 | 2 |
| 60. League of Arab States high-level meeting on the Arab poverty and inequality reduction strategy | 1 |
| 61. League of Arab States ministerial meeting on the Arab poverty and inequality reduction strategy | 1 |
| 62. Preparation of a chapter of the *Arab Governance Report* on the link between effective competition policy and governance or the link between effective planning and governance | 1 |
| 63. Working paper series on economic issues in the region | 1 |

22.68 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 3 is reflected in table 22.20.

Table 22.20 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 3**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 8 238.7 | 7 740.4 | 34 | 31 |
| Non-post | 468.0 | 613.2 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **8 706.7** | **8 353.6** | **34** | **31** |
| Extrabudgetary | 6 712.5 | 5 021.8 | – | – |
| **Total** | **15 419.2** | **13 375.4** | **34** | **31** |

22.69 The amount of $8,353,600, reflecting a net decrease of $353,100 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 31 posts (1 D-1, 4 P-5, 7 P-4, 4 P-3, 3 P-2 and 12 Local level) ($7,740,400) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($613,200), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.70 The net decrease of $353,100 reflects:

(a) The proposed outward redeployment of one post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) and one post of Research Assistant (Local level) to the Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues under subprogramme 7, Conflict mitigation and development, intended to increase the capacity of ESCWA in the substantive area of governance in countries and communities affected by conflict;

(b) The proposed abolishment of one post of Staff Assistant (Local level) and non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019;

(c) The biennial provision of resources for one post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-3) that was established in the biennium 2016-2017, effective 1 January 2016, in the context of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017;

(d) The provision of additional non-post resources to cover new mandates, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

22.71 During the biennium 2018-2019, estimated extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $5,021,800 would support the activities carried out under the subprogramme.

## Subprogramme 4
## Technology for development and regional integration

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $2,992,200***

22.72 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Technology for Development Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 4 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.21 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization:* To harness the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of technology to promote inclusive and sustainable development

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
| (a) Strengthened national institutional frameworks on technology for development and innovation | (i) Increased number of policies, strategies and plans issued on technology for development and innovation | Target | 17 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 15 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | 13 | |
| | (ii) Increased number of policies revised to foster technology for development and innovation | Target | 11 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 9 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | 7 | |
| (b) Increased regional cooperation to promote technology and innovation for sustainable development | (i) Increased number of institutional bodies and networks aimed at strengthening regional integration and streamlining technological cooperation established or reinforced | Target | 10 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 7 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | 4 | |
| | (ii) Increased number of regional initiatives put in place that promote collaboration in science, technology and innovation | Target | 7 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 5 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | 3 | |
| (c) Strengthened national institutional frameworks to facilitate technology transfer | (i) Increased number of member States that participate in initiatives to transfer technology for development and innovation | Target | 17 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 16 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | 15 | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that develop cross-sectoral plans for the transfer of technology for more competitive economies | Target | 3 | – | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | – | |
| | | Actual | | | – | |

## External factors

22.73 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that the political and security situation in the region is conducive to socioeconomic development.

## Outputs

22.74 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.22 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Report on the first session of the Committee on Technology for Development | 1 |
| *Committee on Technology for Development* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 2. Second session of the Committee on Technology for Development | 4 |

| Outputs | Quantity |
|---|---|
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 3. Report on progress made in implementing the Arab Internet Governance Forum process and Arab road map for Internet governance, 2018-2019 | 1 |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 4. Expert group meeting on strategies for the protection of intellectual property rights to promote innovation in the Arab region | 1 |
| 5. Expert group meeting on the competitive advantage of information and communications technology (ICT) sectors in the Arab region for growth of the digital economy and regional integration | 1 |
| 6. Expert group meeting on the impact of artificial intelligence and the latest technological revolution (the "Internet of things") on production functions, economic structures and productivity in manufacturing and other sectors | 2 |
| 7. Expert group meeting on technology and innovation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 8. Regional conference on technologies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| Assistance to intergovernmental bodies and/or United Nations representatives/rapporteurs | |
| 9. Assistance to the League of Arab States on Internet governance, automated digital network systems, the digital economy, innovation policies, enhanced ICT cooperation, ICT strategy, science, technology and innovation and ICT for the Sustainable Development Goals, digital content in Arabic and entrepreneurship, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 10. ESCWA technology bulletin, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 11. Enhancing productivity and achieving economic growth using technology in the Arab region | 1 |
| 12. Strategies for the protection of intellectual property rights for publicly owned and publicly funded research and technology to promote innovation in the Arab region | 1 |
| 13. Promoting the role of innovation for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab countries | 1 |
| 14. Competitive advantage of ICT sectors in Arab countries for growth of the digital economy and regional integration | 1 |
| 15. Promoting institutional frameworks towards smart sectors and industries for sustainable development, 2018 | 1 |
| 16. Policy advice to promote the transformation towards the digital economy and smart society | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 17. Reference guide on strategies for the protection of intellectual property rights for publicly owned and publicly funded research and technology in the Arab region | 1 |
| 18. Brochure on the information society and digital economy hub for the Arab region programme and partnership schemes | 1 |
| 19. Flyer on the second Arab road map for Internet governance and Arab Internet Governance Forum | 1 |
| 20. Leaflet on the Arab digital agenda | 1 |
| 21. Brochure on open government in the Arab region | 1 |
| 22. Wallchart on open government in the Arab region | 1 |
| Technical material | |
| 23. Technology entrepreneurship: opportunities and constraints for Arab youth and women | 1 |
| 24. Study on ICT, the digital economy, science, technology and innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 25. Report on technology and innovation with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 26. Practical guidelines, media programmes (video) and infographics to raise awareness about the role of innovation in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 27. Contribution to the outputs and activities of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 28. Contribution to the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development | 1 |
| 29. Substantive contribution to the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 30. Substantive contribution to the non-recurrent publication of the ESCWA Centre for Women entitled "Gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men" | 1 |
| 31. Meeting of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |

22.75 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 4 is reflected in table 22.23.

Table 22.23 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 4**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 3 483.4 | 2 420.7 | 14 | 10 |
| Non-post | 467.4 | 571.5 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **3 950.8** | **2 992.2** | **14** | **10** |
| **Total** | **3 950.8** | **2 992.2** | **14** | **10** |

22.76 The amount of $2,992,200, reflecting a net decrease of $958,600 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 10 posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 5 Local level) ($2,420,700) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($571,500), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.77 The net decrease of $958,600 reflects:

(a) The proposed outward redeployment of one post of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5) and one post of Programme Management Officer (National Professional Officer) from the Technology for Development Division to subprogramme 1, Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development, reflecting a change in the reporting lines of the ESCWA Technology Centre from subprogramme 4 to subprogramme 1 to enhance the role of information technology in supporting sustainable development; and of one post of Administrative Assistant (Local level) to the Social Development Division under subprogramme 2, Social development, to strengthen the administrative capacity of subprogramme 2 where activities are expected to expand considerably;

(b) The proposed abolishment of one post of Information Technology Officer (P-4) and non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019;

(c) The provision of additional non-post resources to cover new mandates, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/272 A, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## Subprogramme 5
## Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $4,792,500***

22.78 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Statistics Division. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 5 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.24 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To transform the regional statistical system into a well-coordinated and functional system of national and regional statistics with the aim of producing and sharing statistical data in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
| (a) Improved coordination within the regional statistical system supporting data-sharing and joint statistical capacity development based on regional frameworks | (i) Increased number of member States adopt agreements and guidelines for a regional statistical system | Target | 18 | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| | | Estimate | | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| | | Actual | | | 12 | 12 |
| | (ii) Increased number of harmonized databases, joint questionnaires and joint data products | Target | 30 | – | 8 | |
| | | Estimate | | 21 | – | 4 |
| | | Actual | | | 15 | |
| (b) Increased availability of statistics for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda through implementation of statistical standards, guidelines and recommendations | (i) Increased proportion of sustainable development indicators with full disaggregation produced at the national level [percentage] | Target | 80 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | 50 | | |
| | | Actual | | | 30 | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States that provide at least 60 per cent of core socioeconomic indicators for the core data sets | Target | 18 | | 13 | 14 |
| | | Estimate | | 16 | | 12 |
| | | Actual | | | 14 | |
| (c) Increased availability of statistical data about the region, based on data produced and disseminated by member States to achieve national and regional goals | (i) Increased number of statistical methodologies, indexes and data sets developed and adopted in the framework of the ESCWA Statistical Committee | Target | 8 | 3 | – | |
| | | Estimate | | 6 | 2 | |
| | | Actual | | | 4 | 1 |
| | (ii) Increased number of initiatives developed using statistical methodologies, indexes and data sets | Target | 27 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | 9 | | |
| | | Actual | | | 4 | |

### External factors

22.79 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) member States empower their statistical agencies to request the capacity-building resources of ESCWA; (b) there is political acceptance of specific international statistical standards; (c) data are made available from national sources for specific countries/indicators; (d) appropriate technological and publishing tools are available; and (e) regional and international partners remain committed to a coordinated approach to statistical capacity-building and to collecting and sharing statistical data.

## Outputs

22.80 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.25 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Report on the twelfth session of the Statistical Committee | 1 |
| *Statistical Committee* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 2. Substantive servicing of the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee | 4 |
| 3. Servicing of the sixth meeting of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee | 1 |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 4. Report to the thirteenth session of the Statistical Committee | 1 |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 5. Technical advisory group on economic statistics, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 6. Technical advisory group on demographic and social statistics, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 7. Expert group meeting on demographic and social statistics | 1 |
| 8. Expert group meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 9. Expert group meeting on emerging issues relating to official statistics | 1 |
| 10. Meeting of the working group of the Statistical Committee, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 11. *Arab Society: a compendium of social statistics* | 1 |
| 12. Statistical report on the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 13. e-bulletin on industrial statistics in the Arab region | 1 |
| 14. e-bulletin on external trade statistics in the Arab region | 1 |
| 15. e-bulletin on national accounts studies in the Arab region | 1 |
| 16. e-bulletin on gender in figures in the Arab region | 1 |
| Audiovisual resources | |
| 17. Statistical information portal | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 18. Statistical newsletter, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 19. *Ensaf* gender statistics newsletter, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 20. Country profiles, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| Technical material | |
| 21. Study on refugee statistics | 1 |
| 22. Background and discussion documents and presentations for global statistical events | 1 |
| 23. Background and discussion documents and presentations for regional statistical events | 1 |
| 24. Methodological study on economic statistics, 2019 | 1 |
| 25. Methodological study on demographic and social statistics, 2019 | 1 |
| 26. Glossaries of statistical terms on selected statistical subject areas | 1 |
| 27. Quarterly inflation outlook, 2018-2019 | 2 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 28. Technical material on gender statistics | 1 |
| 29. Technical material on disability statistics | 1 |
| 30. Data compilation for ESCWA covering recurrent data products and specific needs of other subprogrammes, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 31. Development and testing of a methodology to identify clear and accurate baselines for national targets and relevant indicators | 1 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 32. Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics | 1 |
| 33. Task Force on Statistical Coordination of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **Internal oversight services (regular budget)** | |
| 34. Evaluation of subprogramme 5 | 1 |

22.81 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 5 is reflected in table 22.26.

Table 22.26 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 5**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 4 521.4 | 4 521.4 | 18 | 18 |
| Non-post | 280.4 | 271.1 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **4 801.8** | **4 792.5** | **18** | **18** |
| Extrabudgetary | 316.1 | 421.9 | – | – |
| **Total** | **5 117.9** | **5 214.4** | **18** | **18** |

22.82 The amount of $4,792,500, reflecting a decrease of $9,300 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 18 posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2 and 7 Local level) ($4,521,400) and for non-post requirements, including consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($271,100), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme. The decrease of $9,300 reflects reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019.

22.83 During the biennium 2018-2019, estimated extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $421,900 would support ongoing activities in partnership with the World Bank on the harmonization of price statistics, national account activities and the production of biannual estimates of purchasing power parity in the Arab region.

## Subprogramme 6
## Advancement of women

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $3,120,500***

22.84 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the ESCWA Centre for Women. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 6 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.27 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To reduce gender imbalances and improve the empowerment of women in line with international conventions and conferences

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* |
| (a) Strengthened institutional and legal frameworks of member States to promote gender equality and gender justice, including the elimination of violence against women | (i) Increased number of member States with strategies and plans promoting gender equality and gender justice | Target | 6 | – | – |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | – |
| | | Actual | | | 2 |
| | (ii) Increased number of legislative reforms aimed at the elimination of discrimination against women, gender inequality and/or violence against women | Target | 11 | – | – |
| | | Estimate | | 9 | – |
| | | Actual | | | 7 |
| (b) Increased gender mainstreaming in national policies | Increased number of member States with policies and plans to mainstream gender | Target | 10 | – | – |
| | | Estimate | | 8 | – |
| | | Actual | | | 6 |
| (c) Increase in monitoring and evaluation by member States of regional and institutional obligations on gender equality | (i) Increased number of member States submitting reports on their implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and responding to the observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women | Target | 8 | – | – |
| | | Estimate | | 6 | – |
| | | Actual | | | 5 |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States with national plans to implement and report on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and gender-related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Target | 6 | – | – |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | – |
| | | Actual | | | – |

## External factors

22.85 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is continued political will for enhancing the role of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and strengthening dialogue with civil society; (b) the political situation in the region does not further deteriorate; and (c) current political changes in the region do not reverse acquired gains in gender equality.

## Outputs

22.86 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.28 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Report on the eighth session of the Committee on Women | 1 |
| *Committee on Women* | |
| Substantive servicing of meetings | |
| 2. Substantive servicing of the ninth session of the Committee on Women | 4 |
| *Ad hoc expert groups* | |
| 3. Expert group meeting on gender justice and intersecting inequalities | 1 |
| 4. Expert group meeting on the gender justice strategy | 1 |
| 5. Expert group meeting on "Horizon 2030": what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 6. Expert group meeting on gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men | 1 |
| 7. Expert group meeting on the *Status of Arab Women Report* entitled "Violence against women: cultural and political dynamics" | 1 |
| 8. Expert group meeting on women's development with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 9. Gender justice and intersecting inequalities | 1 |
| 10. *Status of Arab Women Report* entitled "Violence against women: cultural and political dynamics" | 1 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 11. "Horizon 2030": what it takes to achieve gender equality targets in the Sustainable Development Goals | 1 |
| 12. Gender equality in recovery: from war to work for all women and men | 1 |
| 13. Survey on national women machineries | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 14. Poster and information kit on gender justice | 1 |
| Technical material | |
| 15. Policy brief on gender justice and its links with the Sustainable Development Goals, or on member States' experience in promoting gender justice | 1 |
| 16. Policy brief on gender and the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 1 and 2) | 2 |
| 17. Policy brief on gender equality in post-conflict recovery | 1 |
| 18. Policy brief on combating violence against women in the Arab region using the estimation of its cost as a tool | 1 |
| 19. Report on the social and economic situation of Palestinian women and girls | 1 |
| 20. Gender and the Sustainable Development Goals: the reporting process | 1 |
| 21. Report on the development of women, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| Special events | |
| 22. International Women's Day 2018 (focus on gender justice) | 1 |
| 23. International Women's Day 2019 (focus on women, peace and security) | 1 |
| 24. Gender discussion series: selected topics on gender justice and the Sustainable Development Goals | 4 |
| 25. Annual advocacy events on the prevention of violence against women, 2018-2019 (including 16 days of activism against gender-based violence) | 2 |

22.87 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 6 is reflected in table 22.29.

Table 22.29 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 6**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 2 821.7 | 2 821.7 | 11 | 11 |
| Non-post | 308.8 | 298.8 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **3 130.5** | **3 120.5** | **11** | **11** |
| Extrabudgetary | 29.2 | 8.1 | – | – |
| **Total** | **3 159.7** | **3 128.6** | **11** | **11** |

22.88 The amount of $3,120,500, reflecting a decrease of $10,000 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 11 posts (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 4 Local level) ($2,821,700) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($298,800), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme. The decrease of $10,000 reflects reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019.

22.89 During the biennium 2018-2019, estimated extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $8,100 would support the continuation of ongoing projects funded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on gender mainstreaming in public institutions in the Arab region.

## Subprogramme 7
## Conflict mitigation and development

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $4,146,600***

22.90 Substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues. The subprogramme will be implemented in accordance with the strategy detailed under subprogramme 7 of programme 19 of the biennial programme plan for the period 2018-2019.

Table 22.30 **Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures**

*Objective of the Organization*: To mitigate the impact of crises, including occupation, and to address development and institutional challenges associated with ongoing transformations in the Arab region

| | | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* | *2012-2013* |
| (a) More effective responses by member States to address the root causes and impact of conflict and to mitigate its spillover effects | (i) Increased number of member States that adopt strategies and measures to address the root causes and impact of conflict and the potential relapse into conflict | Target | 2 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | 1 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (ii) Increased number of member States seeking and receiving technical assistance related to effectively responding to the impact of conflict and crises, addressing their root causes and mitigating their spillover effects | Target | 4 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | 2 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement | | Performance measures 2018-2019 | 2016-2017 | 2014-2015 | 2012-2013 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (b) Further developed national and regional institutions to mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region, as well as advance efforts to assist the Palestinian people in securing their inalienable rights and enhancing their resilience | (i) Number of instances of national and regional institutions utilizing analysis and policy recommendations on the impact of the Israeli occupation on the Palestinian people and the Arab region | Target | 2 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| | (ii) Increased number of national and regional institutions receiving technical assistance in capacity-building for mitigating the impact of Israeli occupation | Target | 5 | 2 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 3 | 1 | |
| | | Actual | | | | – |
| (c) Strengthened resilience of public institutions in member States, including least developed countries, to develop governance strategies responding to the institutional and development challenges associated with social and economic transformations in the region | (i) Increased number of member States, including least developed countries, developing cross-sectoral policies to respond to challenges associated with social and economic transformations in the region | Target | 3 | 2 | | |
| | | Estimate | | 2 | 1 | |
| | | Actual | | | 1 | – |
| | (ii) Increased number of partnerships between least developed countries and development partners towards the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 | Target | 2 | | | |
| | | Estimate | | | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |

## External factors

22.91 The subprogramme will achieve its objective and expected accomplishments provided that: (a) there is the continued willingness of member States to develop and implement policies or measures to effectively address the root causes of conflict and mitigate its spillover effects; and (b) the security and political situation in the region does not deteriorate.

## Outputs

22.92 During the biennium 2018-2019, the following outputs will be delivered:

Table 22.31 **Categories of outputs and final outputs**

| Outputs | Quantity |
|---|---|
| **Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies, and reports thereto (regular budget)** | |
| *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia* | |
| Parliamentary documentation | |
| 1. Impact of conflict on development in the Arab region | 1 |
| 2. Report on the socioeconomic conditions in occupied Palestine | 1 |
| 3. Report on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| *Ad hoc expert group meetings* | |
| 4. Expert group meeting on mitigating the ramifications of conflict through development | 1 |
| 5. Round table on Sustainable Development Goal 16: strengthening conflict prevention capacities through early warning systems | 1 |

| *Outputs* | *Quantity* |
|---|---|
| 6. Expert group meeting on measuring and analysing the cost of the Israeli occupation | 1 |
| 7. Expert group meeting on monitoring governance progress | 1 |
| 8. Expert group meeting on building institutions in conflict-affected countries | 1 |
| 9. Joint League of Arab States/Arab Administrative Development Organization/ESCWA annual conference, December 2018 and December 2019 | 2 |
| 10. Policy dialogue on the problematics of methodologies and data in conflict analysis | 1 |
| 11. Round table on the plight of the Palestinian refugees: impact and opportunities | 1 |
| 12. Expert group meeting on conflict, crisis and occupation, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| **Other substantive activities (regular budget)** | |
| Recurrent publications | |
| 13. *Trends and Impacts in Conflict Settings: Issue No. 6*, 2018 | 1 |
| 14. *Arab Governance Report II* | 1 |
| 15. *Palestine under Occupation II* | 1 |
| Non-recurrent publications | |
| 16. The challenges for development in current conflict settings | 1 |
| Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wallcharts, information kits | |
| 17. Wallchart on the impact of conflict and occupation on the socioeconomic development of the Palestinian people, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 18. Booklet on the impact of conflict in the Arab region, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 19. Booklet on the impact of occupation, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 20. The repercussions of Israeli occupation on development outcomes, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| Technical material | |
| 21. The role of education, skills and employment in competitiveness in a conflict or fragile setting | 1 |
| 22. Understanding risks of violent conflict: evidence from the Arab region | 1 |
| 23. Working paper on monitoring the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Istanbul, Turkey, May 2011), 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 24. Changing nature of conflict dynamics and the need for a regional approach | 1 |
| 25. The socioeconomic conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory | 1 |
| 26. The cumulative and comprehensive cost of occupation | 1 |
| 27. Local governance in fragile contexts | 1 |
| 28. Institutional development: socioeconomic transformation for recovery and conflict relapse prevention | 1 |
| 29. The impact of the protracted displacement of Palestinians on their human development | 1 |
| 30. Post-conflict economic governance reform | 1 |
| 31. Report on conflict, crisis and occupation, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda | 1 |
| 32. Technical material on the root causes of violent extremism | 1 |
| 33. Technical paper on preventing violent extremism through development policy | 1 |
| Special events | |
| 34. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 35. Side event at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| **International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (regular budget)** | |
| 36. Contribution to the annual Conference of the Governance Institutes Forum for Training in the Middle East and North Africa Network/Basil Fuleihan Institute of Finance/Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 37. Contribution to the work of the United Nations country teams and regional United Nations entities in conflict-affected countries, 2018-2019 | 2 |

| Outputs | Quantity |
|---|---|
| 38. Contribution to the United Nations Public Administration Network website with ESCWA publications and training modules on governance, 2018-2019 | 2 |
| 39. Contribution to the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region* | 2 |
| 40. Contribution to a publication on competitiveness in conflict settings | 1 |

22.93 The distribution of resources for subprogramme 7 is reflected in table 22.32.

Table 22.32 **Resource requirements: subprogramme 7**

| | Resources (thousands of United States dollars) | | Posts | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 (before recosting) | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 3 346.9 | 3 819.8 | 13 | 15 |
| Non-post | 336.6 | 326.8 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **3 683.5** | **4 146.6** | **13** | **15** |
| Extrabudgetary | 517.5 | 3 175.0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **4 201.0** | **7 321.6** | **14** | **16** |

22.94 The amount of $4,146,600, reflecting a net increase of $463,100 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 15 posts (1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2 and 6 Local level) ($3,819,800) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, expert groups, travel of staff and contractual services ($326,800), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.95 The net increase of $463,100 reflects the proposed inward redeployment of one post of Economic Affairs Officer (P-4) and one post of Research Assistant (Local level) from the Economic Development and Integration Division under subprogramme 3, Economic development and integration, into the Division for Emerging and Conflict-Related Issues, intended to consolidate the capacity of ESCWA in the substantive area of governance in countries and communities affected by conflict. Further capacity will allow the subprogramme to more effectively address the prevention of violence and extremism, which in the Arab region continues to represent an obstacle to gains in human development. This is offset in part by non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019.

22.96 During the biennium 2018-2019, estimated extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $3,175,000 would support the activities carried out under the subprogramme. The anticipated increase stems from a new project on institutional strengthening for recovery and reconciliation in Yemen.

## D. Programme support

***Resource requirements (before recosting): $27,783,700***

22.97 Programme support comprises the Administrative Services Division, the Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section and the Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section. Its role will continue to entail the provision of timely, effective and efficient support to the implementation of the ESCWA programme of work.

*Administrative Services Division*

22.98 The Administrative Services Division is headed by a Director, who manages the administrative and logistical support for the work of ESCWA, assists the senior management in the development and implementation of the administrative and financial framework and provides advice on all administrative policies concerning the work of the Commission. The Director also holds the responsibility of leading the contribution of ESCWA to system-wide initiatives such as Umoja and the staff mobility and development policy. The Administrative Services Division includes the Human Resources Management Section, the Budget and Finance Section, the Information and Communications Technology Section, the General Services Section, the Conference Services Section and the Joint Medical Services Unit.

*Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section*

22.99 The Programme Planning and Technical Cooperation Section reports to the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support. The Section supports the implementation of the ESCWA programme of work and the coordination of interdisciplinary issues to achieve coherence between the ESCWA regular programme of work and its technical cooperation programme. It also tackles emerging interdisciplinary development challenges by fostering collaboration between divisions.

22.100 The Section is responsible for the following outputs: support the process of interdivisional programming in the preparation of the programme of work for 2020-2021 and the strategic framework for 2022-2023; coordinate the articulation of normative, analytical and operational outputs; provide policy guidance and support to divisions in the formulation of their respective technical cooperation programmes and projects funded from the regular programme of technical cooperation, the Development Account and extrabudgetary sources; support the delivery of policy advisory and capacity-building activities to member States upon request, in line with the mandate of ESCWA; service the meetings of the technical cooperation network; undertake strategic monitoring in the preparation of programme performance reports through the application of results-based management and results-based-budgeting principles; implement internal and peer-review mechanisms; act as the secretariat of the Projects Committee; and ensure coherence with the other regional commissions by actively participating and contributing to the meetings of the Chiefs of Programme Planning.

*Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section*

22.101 The Strategy, Evaluation and Partnership Section is guided by the goal of focusing programmatic results, increasing effectiveness and enhancing coherence. Reporting to the Deputy Executive Secretary for Programme Support, the Section supports the articulation and implementation of the long-term strategic vision of ESCWA and the coordination of interdisciplinary initiatives.

22.102 Through the implementation of the ESCWA partnership strategy, the Section also seeks to nurture relationships with partners and other stakeholders, including intergovernmental bodies such as the League of Arab States, other organizations of the United Nations system, think tanks and research institutes, civil society organizations and the private sector. The Section also coordinates activities of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its affiliated thematic working groups in an effort to ensure policy coherence among United Nations entities at the regional level and to coordinate important joint outputs. The Section supports the implementation of the ESCWA resource mobilization strategy by enhancing donor relations and improving the ability of the organization to raise voluntary contributions to support its regular programme of work. The Section is the secretariat for the publications committee.

22.103 Furthermore, the Section oversees the implementation of the ESCWA evaluation policy in line with the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group, manages all mandatory and discretionary self-evaluations and ensures proper follow-up and implementation of approved recommendations.

22.104 The Section seeks to strengthen and institutionalize the evaluation culture at ESCWA, incorporating recommendations and lessons learned into the planning process.

22.105 The distribution of resources for programme support is reflected in table 22.33.

Table 22.33 **Resource requirements: programme support**

| | *Resources (thousands of United States dollars)* | | *Posts* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019 (before recosting)* | *2016-2017* | *2018-2019* |
| Regular budget | | | | |
| Post | 21 434.6 | 20 721.5 | 108 | 104 |
| Non-post | 7 166.3 | 7 062.2 | – | – |
| **Subtotal** | **28 600.9** | **27 783.7** | **108** | **104** |
| **Total** | **28 600.9** | **27 783.7** | **108** | **104** |

22.106 The amount of $27,783,700, reflecting a net decrease of $817,200 compared with the appropriation for 2016-2017, would provide for the financing of 104 posts (1 D-1, 5 P-5, 10 P-4, 11 P-3, 6 P-2, 1 Field Service, 3 National Professional Officer and 67 Local level) ($20,721,500) and for non-post requirements, including other staff costs, consultants, travel of staff, contractual services, general operating expenses, hospitality, supplies and materials, and furniture and equipment ($7,062,200), to support the implementation of mandates under the programme.

22.107 The net decrease of $817,200 reflects:

(a) The proposed outward redeployment of one post of Public Information Officer (P-4) and two posts of Public Information Assistant (Local level) from the ESCWA Communications and Information Unit in the Conference Services Section to the Office of the Executive Secretary under executive direction and management to allow for closer coordination and alignment between the strategic direction of ESCWA set by the Office of the Executive Secretary and the outreach and external communications activities;

(b) The proposed abolishment of one post of Electronic Engineering Assistant (Local level) and non-post reductions resulting from efficiencies that the Commission plans to bring about in 2018-2019;

(c) The proposed reclassification of:

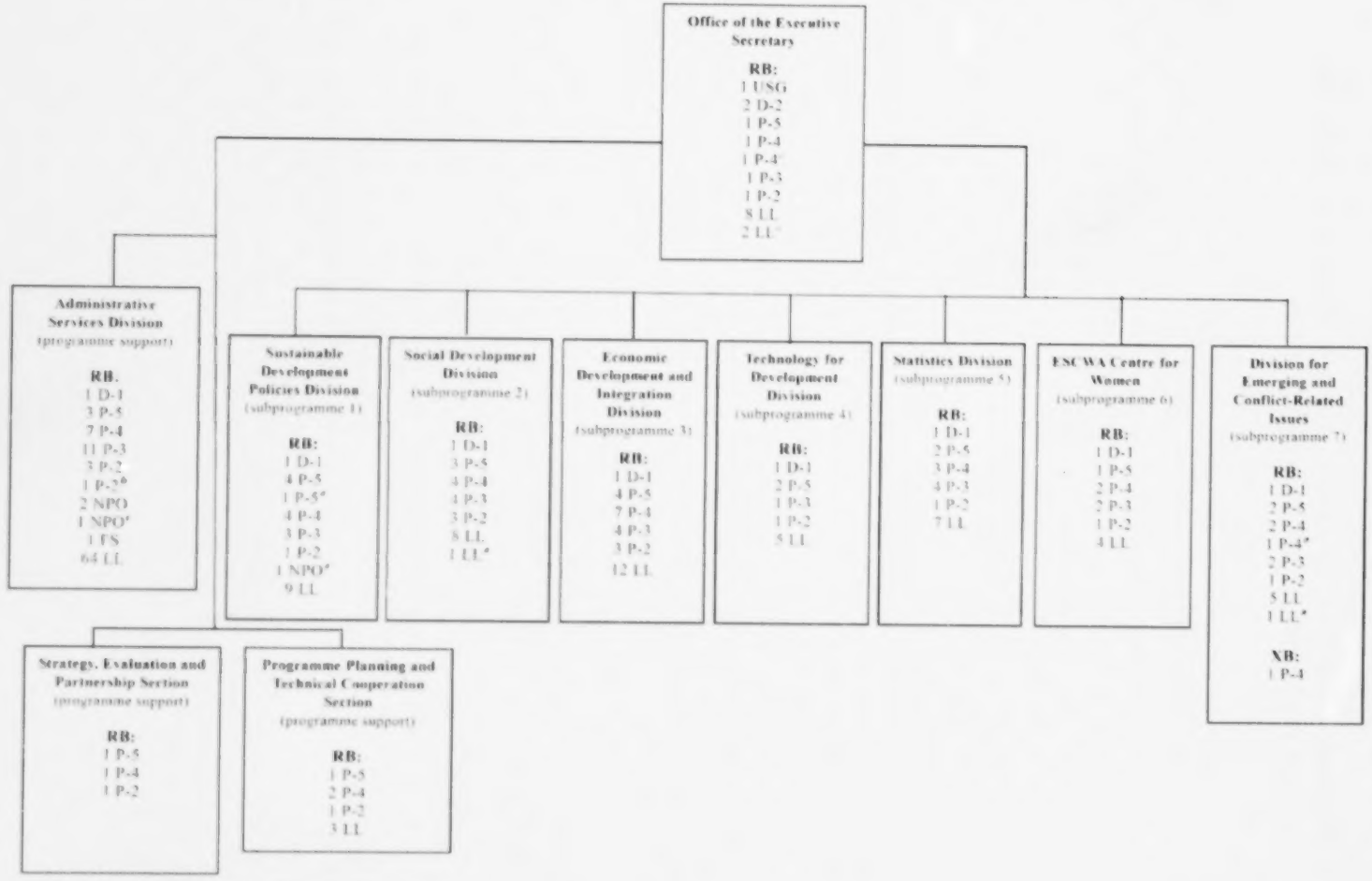
(i) One post of Information Systems Officer (P-4) as a P-2 post because of the expectation that with the ongoing transition from legacy systems and ancillary applications to a full-fledged enterprise resource planning solution, the Information and Communications Technology Section will shift its focus to the provision of support for user applications (for example, Wi-Fi, customer services, iNeed and e-mail);

(ii) One post of Procurement Officer (P-3) as a National Professional Officer post in the context of the realignment of the Procurement Unit to projected volumes of business and the likelihood of consolidation of international procurement services resulting from Umoja implementation;

(d) The biennial provision of resources for two posts of Administrative Officer and Fixed Asset Management Officer (P-3) that were established in the Administrative Services Division in the biennium 2016-2017, effective 1 January 2016, in the context of section 22 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, offset in part by reductions relating to the phased abolishment of posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/247.

# Annex I

## Organizational structure and post distribution for the biennium 2018-2019




[a] Redeployment.
[b] Reclassification from a P-4 post.
[c] Reclassification from a P-3 post.

# Annex II

## Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

| *Brief description of the recommendation* | *Action taken to implement the recommendation* |
|---|---|
| **Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions** | |
| First report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/7) | All recommendations to ESCWA have been implemented (paras. V.78, V.79, V.82, V.84 and V.85). |
| Report on revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 under section 22, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance (A/68/808) | |
| The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly encourage the Secretary-General to intensify his engagement with the host country in order to find a lasting solution to the issue of a new permanent location for ESCWA headquarters (para. 9). | ESCWA continues to work with the host country to find a solution to the issue of a new permanent location for its headquarters, but a successful resolution of the matter has yet to be found. |
| The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to make every effort to shorten the project timeline without compromising the quality of the construction work and the safety of staff (para. 13). | The final component of the project on blast mitigation is projected to be completed by April 2017. All other components of the blast mitigation project have been completed. |
| **Office of Internal Oversight Services** | |
| Audit of selected subprogrammes and related technical cooperation projects in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (report 2016/081) | |
| ESCWA should take action to make advance plans for its meetings, workshops and training courses so that the lists of participants can be finalized in time to comply with the travel policy of purchasing tickets at least 16 days in advance of travel (recommendation 1). | Divisions are planning ahead for meetings by issuing invitations to member States and other stakeholders at least two months prior to their set date and following up with ministries to seek confirmation of participation early enough to allow administrative arrangements for the travel of participants and staff, to be completed in compliance with the travel policy. |
| ESCWA should take action to ensure the Human Resources Management Section is involved in the determination of consultant fees to ensure compliance with the administrative instruction on consultants and individual contractors (recommendation 2). | The Human Resources Management Section continues to be involved in the determination of consultant fees and thus applies the administrative instruction on consultants and individual contractors. In the specific case of the "national agenda for the future of Syria" project II, the contracting of human resources is no longer performed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, but is now fully under ESCWA control. All contracts are now issued by ESCWA and are in full compliance with ST/AI/2013/4. The recommendation has been implemented and can be closed. |

| *Brief description of the recommendation* | *Action taken to implement the recommendation* |
|---|---|
| ESCWA should conduct a lessons learned exercise on the implementation of two large and complex projects by the Economic Development and Integration Division during the 2014-2015 biennium that would be used to guide the management of future projects of similar size and complexity (recommendation 3). | The evaluation of the "national agenda for the future of Syria" project, including a section on lessons learned, has been completed. With regard to the project on Saudi Arabia, the terminal report comprises a section on good practices and lessons learned. Both reports were sent to the Office of Internal Oversight Services on 13 July 2016. In addition, subprogramme 3 will present a comprehensive report reflecting a deep review of the results of and lessons learned from the implementation of both projects. |
| Audit of the implementation of Umoja in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (report 2015/170) | All three recommendations have been implemented by ESCWA. |
| **Joint Inspection Unit** | |
| Report on cooperation among the United Nations regional commissions (A/70/677-E/2016/48) | The Secretary-General transmitted to the members of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council his comments and those of the executive secretaries of the regional commissions on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/70/677/Add.1-E/2016/48/Add.1). |
| Evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations development system to strengthening national capacities for statistical analysis and data collection to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals (JIU/REP/2016/5) | The increased focus of ESCWA on the Sustainable Development Goals is aimed at, inter alia, strengthening and harmonizing national statistical systems in order to gauge progress towards the achievement of the Goals in the Arab region. ESCWA has further responded to the recommendations reflected in the report by participating in the United Nations Development Account programme through a statistics and data project. The goal of the project is to strengthen national statistical systems to respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aim of the programme is to upgrade the capacity of member States to collect data and generate the information that tracks progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. |